

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1 after the title of the invention and before the "Technical Field":

--RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a U.S. national phase application of PCT international application PCT/JP2005/018917.--

The following paragraphs will replace all prior versions of them in the specification of the application.

1) On page 8, line 17, please amend the following paragraph as follows:

Inorganic compound layer 11 is composed of a compound having the chemical composition expressed by $\text{Li}_x\text{PT}_y\text{O}_z$. Component T refers to at least one kind of element selected from the element group composed of ~~element-symbols~~ titanium (Ti), copper (Cu), zirconium (Zr), molybdenum (Mo), tantalum (Ta), and tungsten (W); and additionally x, y, and z satisfy $2.0 \leq x \leq 7.0$, $0.01 \leq y \leq 1.0$, and $3.5 \leq z \leq 8.0$, respectively, desirably $2.0 \leq x \leq 3.0$, $0.01 \leq y \leq 0.50$, and $3.5 \leq z \leq 4.0$, respectively; or $2.0 \leq x \leq 3.0$, $0.01 \leq y \leq 1.0$, and $3.5 \leq z \leq 7.0$, respectively. The above-mentioned $\text{Li}_x\text{PT}_y\text{O}_z$ is material superior in lithium ion conductivity and moisture resistance, and is discovered by the inventors of the present invention as disclosed in Japanese Patent Unexamined Publication No. 2004-335455.

2) On page 15, line 9-12, please amend the following paragraph as follows:

In sample 8, active material layer 10 was formed with a thickness of 1.5 μm , using 50 wt% Si-50 wt% TiSi_2 as its active material by means of rf sputtering on collector 9 similar to that in sample 1. The sputtering was performed with chip-like Ti metal placed on the Si target with a diameter of 4 inches in an argon atmosphere of 2 Pa at an rf power of 500 W for one hour. ~~In the same way as in sample 1, analyzing the proximity of the interface between collector 9 and active material layer 10 with XPS and AES proved that at least a part of the interface was alloyed.~~

3) On page 25, line 13, please amend the following paragraph as follows:

Comparison of Fig. 3 with Fig. 4 proves that the capacity retention rate is lower when Li_2WO_4 is used instead of W as a target than when W is used, even for the same W/P (i.e. value y). However, the capacity retention rate is 60% or higher even for a W/P between 0.5 and 0-1 1.0.

4) On page 27, line 10, please amend the following paragraph as follows:

From such a viewpoint, if the lithium oxyacid salt as raw material is LiBO_2 , LiAlO_2 , or LiGaO_2 , namely, component M is B, Al, or Ga, in the above-mentioned general formula, x, y, and z preferably satisfy $0.6 \leq x \leq 1.0$, $1.05 \leq y \leq 1.99$, and $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.5$, respectively. If the lithium oxyacid salt is Li_2SiO_3 , Li_2GeO_3 , or Li_2CO_3 , namely if component M is Si, Ge, or C in the above-mentioned general formula, $1.6 \leq x \leq 2.0$, $2.05 \leq y \leq 2.99$, and $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.5$. If the lithium oxyacid salt is Li_2SO_4 , namely if component M is S in the above-mentioned general formula, x, y, and z preferably satisfy $1.6 \leq x \leq 2.0$, $3.05 \leq y \leq 3.99$, and $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.5$. If the lithium oxyacid salt is Li_5AlO_4 , namely if component M is Al in the above-mentioned general formula, x, y, and z preferably satisfy $4.6 \leq x \leq 5.0$, $3.05 \leq y \leq 3.99$, and $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.5$.

5) On page 29, line 19, please amend the following paragraph as follows:

When a battery is charged/discharged, negative electrode 1 functions as a negative electrode, only after lithium is stored in active material layer 10, which does not directly contact electrolyte 3, through inorganic compound layer 11. That is, inorganic compound layer 11, facing electrolyte 3, works as a moving path of lithium ions to ~~substrate~~ active material layer 10 separated from electrolyte 3. With this makeup, even if electrolyte 3 includes moisture, inorganic compound layer 11 can continue working as a moving path of ions, without being influenced by moisture of electrolyte 3.

6) On page 31, line 11, please amend the following paragraph as follows:

Next, a description is made for an example where inorganic compound layer 11 was formed using a mixture of two different kinds of ~~transition-metal oxide including~~ lithium oxyacid salts as a target for sputtering. On the same conditions as those in samples 21 through 28, except that a mixture of lithium oxyacid salts (molar ratio 1:1) shown in table 8 were used to form inorganic compound layer 11, negative electrodes 1 of samples 31 through 43 that were formed with inorganic compound layers 11 composed of nitride of lithium oxyacid salt respectively, were produced. Batteries were produced on the same conditions as in the first exemplary embodiment except for the method and composition for inorganic compound layer 11, to evaluate the cycling characteristics. The compositions of inorganic compound layers 11 and the capacity retention rates after 100 cycles of charge/discharge, namely the evaluation result, are shown in table 8.